

"Y" Hut Home for Two Million Americans in France

The Red Triangle Has Been a Powerful Factor in Maintaining the Morals of The Fighting Man—Praise From Pershing

By Bruce Barton

Lieutenant Colonel E. S. Wheeler in a report to General Pershing in May, 1918, said:

"There is no one factor contributing more to the morale of the American army in France than the Y. M. C. A. The value of this organization cannot be overestimated. Give me 900 men who have a Y. M. C. A. rather than 1,000 who have none, and I will have better fighters every time."

General Pershing directed that Colonel Wheeler's letter be sent to the Y. M. C. A. officials, and himself added this comment:

"The conclusions and opinions of Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler are concurred in by these headquarters."

NINE men who are happy and entertained can out-fight ten who are homesick and lonesome. It is the business of the "Y" to add this extra 10 per cent. to the fighting efficiency of our armies; to maintain that indefinable quality which wins wars—MORALE.

The "Y" has built 538 huts of various designs in American cantonnements; and in France the number is larger already and is growing at the rate of a hundred a month. If they were gathered together they would make quite a city. And besides these, there are "huts" in cellars and dug-outs, right under the guns in France; for the "Y" follows the boys straight up to the trenches.

In some of the French towns, where the boys are billeted in barns and warehouses, the hut is the only place where they can be warm or write a letter. Coal was \$60 a ton in those towns last winter, but the "Y" kept the huts burning. Every day 2,500,000 letters are written on "Y" stationery.

A Hut Every Creed's Church

At the opening of one of the big huts a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi and ministers of ten different Protestant denominations took part. In France many a hut is used by a priest for mass, and by the rabbi and the Protestant chaplain, all within forty-eight hours. There are no creeds at the battlefront; priest and rabbi and minister work side by side—and the hut is the soldier's church for all.

The "Y" makes no effort to force religion on any man; no such effort is necessary. At the front, where boys are face to face with the great realities, they turn eagerly enough to men who can talk to them of big things in a manly way. Surely \$3,000,000 is little enough to spend next year in maintaining the soldiers' church.

"WHAT am I going to do when the war is over?" That is the question that thousands of the boys are asking; they do not want to lose these years; they want to be equipped to hold better jobs after the war than they had before.

So the hut becomes the soldier's college, under the direction of such men as Professor E. H. Wilkins, of the University of Chicago; and Professor A. C. Trowbridge, of Iowa State University. Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, secretary of Yale University, spent months in France laying out a comprehensive plan for making every hut a school house; and Professor F. E. Spaulding has given up his work as superintendent of the public schools of Cleveland to become the "Y's"

educational director over there.

Classes in French, in history, mathematics and other high school and college courses are held. Every month hundreds of lectures are given by men like William Howard Taft, John Masefield, Dr. John H. Finley, Professors William Morris Davis, of Harvard; W. W. Atwood, of Harvard, and J. W. Garner, University of Illinois. Besides these there are almost nightly lectures by prominent American business men to keep the boys from losing touch with business life.

The monthly attendance of soldiers and sailors at these lectures averages more than 1,000,000.

In one week in France the "Y" had actors and actresses appearing in its huts whose combined weekly salaries at home would amount to \$30,000. Twenty-five companies of players and 100 individual players travel the "Y" circuit all the time. If you figure only two shows a week on the average and estimate them at only 50 cents apiece, your boy is getting \$52 worth of good and wholesome entertainments in the Hut Theatre.

You know what a relief the movies are after the strain of a business day. Suppose you were coming out from under the strain of days in the trenches, your mind filled with visions that clung in spite of your effort to shake them off. Imagine the joy of meeting Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin then! The "Y" is the greatest exhibitor of motion pictures in the world to-day. Every week boats bearing more than fifteen miles of film set sail for Europe.

The "Y" the Town's Merchant

In addition there are the shows in the "Y" huts in this country and on the battlefronts and transports. The average weekly attendance is 2,500,000, and so economically is the greatest movie theatre conducted that the cost to the Y. M. C. A. is only about 2 cents per attendance.

In some of these little French towns where the boys are billeted in houses and barns and chicken-coops there is not a single store except a little wine shop. The gifts that you would like to send the boys cannot go over because of the lack of tonnage. And so the "Y" canteen becomes the only place where the boys can buy candy, and tobacco, and safety-razors and all the other little things that make life comfortable.

General Pershing in his General Order No. 33 asked the "Y" to take charge of the canteen. He had seen the Mexican border before and after the arrival of the Y. M. C. A. He knew what the "Y" could do.

If any one tells you that the "Y" is making a profit by selling goods to soldiers tell him plainly and emphatically that he is wrong.

In the front line the "Y" sells nothing. There chocolate, soup, fruit and cigarettes are given away for the asking to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the canteens further back tobacco, which is the largest item, is sold at the same prices as in the quartermaster's stores, the "Y" standing the transportation loss, which amounts to a very large total.

The "Y" never has and never will make one cent of profit on its canteen.

The man at the head of the whole canteen service is Alexander McFayden, who was the general manager of the S. S. Kresge five and ten cent stores. He

gave up a \$50,000 income on this side to conduct the soldiers' store and his salary over there is not even a dollar a year.

Keep a boy active and you keep his mind happy and his body fresh. The "Y" had its athletic directors in France with the first troops and has been sending them by almost every boat since.

And with the men has gone equipment both for the camps and overseas—more than 100,000 baseballs, indoor balls, soccer balls and volley balls, 6,000 first baseman's gloves, 5,000 sets of boxing gloves, 4,000 footballs and carloads of bats and masks and punching bags, etc.

Every month the shipments of athletic goods increase. These figures will be far out of date by the time they are published. The "Y" has 541 athletic directors on this side and more than 800 in France.

To Italy—Even to Russia

High-salaried men all of them in private life. And, like every other "Y" representative in France, they are serving the boys without salary—receiving only their living expenses.

Recently the French Minister of War, through a member of the French Commissions, asked the "Y" to increase the number of huts in the French Army ("Foyers du Soldat" the French call them) from 1,300 to 2,000. He quoted Napoleon's phrase that morale is to other factors in war as 3 to 1, and he said, "The greatest agency for creating and maintaining morale is the Y. M. C. A."

The King of Italy asked to have the

"Y" work extended among his troops—also on the ground that it strengthened morale and so helped to win the war. A few "Y" men were sent to Russia and kept there at the express wish of President Wilson. And so effective has their work been in creating sentiment for the Allies that the Germans started a special propaganda charging that the "Y" is a "capitalistic organization seeking to exploit Russia."

The Frenchman on furlough goes home; the Englishman leaps for the first boat across the Channel. But the American boy, 3,000 miles from the folks he loves, has no home to turn to. And furloughs are sometimes dangerous to homesick boys in a foreign land.

But the "Y" has thought of furloughs. Away back from the firing line, at Aix-les-Bains and other attractive points in France, the "Y" has rented great summer hotels. They have no tourists in these grim days, and the owners were glad enough to rent them for the use of the American boys.

Here, in the beautiful country, with tennis and swimming pools, and billiards, and baseball, and clean beds and plenty of war baths your boy may spend his furlough. After the trenches it seems like heaven—which means that it's almost like home.

It costs a lot of money to rent these great resorts, and to send to the boys the best preachers, lecturers, actors and motion picture films in America. But there is not a man in America who thinks that the best is too good for our boys on furlough—not if one of the boys is HIS boy.

Prison camps are bitter places; they would be far worse were it not for the work of the Red Cross and the Red Triangle. From the very beginning of the war "Y" secretaries have been carrying on their work among prisoners. That work still goes on, though in Germany it is now carried forward by Dutch and Swiss "Y" men and through other neutral agencies, such as the Danish Red Cross; but it is all financed by American

funds. If your boy is taken prisoner he will find a "Y" man in his prison camp. The packages that you send to him will get through to their destination if there is any human way of managing it. Your hand stretched out through the long arm of the "Y" will be doing for him, wherever he is in Europe, the things that you would do if you were with him.

The Biggest Men for the Job

Some time ago Herbert L. Pratt, vice-president of the Standard Oil Company and one of the business men who is giving his time freely to the management of the "Y's" war work, went to France. He cabled back from there: "Get the biggest business men in America to come over here." There is no bank president, railroad man or merchant for whom the job of helping our boys in a "Y" hut is too small.

And the "Y" has sent women, too—wholesome, cheerful women, good to look upon. The boys come back to them at night, hungry for the sound of a woman's voice in a language they can understand. Half embarrassed, they show them the photographs of the mother they have left behind and the girl "back there." No one can overestimate the influence of those women on the lives of our boys.

A man for every 3,000 soldiers in France is the "Y's" programme. No salaries are paid—only bare expenses and a small allowance for the families of married men left behind. Of these brave men and women eleven have already been killed by gas and shells, and scores have been mentioned for bravery under fire.

Two signs or symbols gleam out across the torn battlefields of Europe—the Red Cross, the symbol of mercy, and the Red Triangle, the symbol of friendliness and comfort and cheer. Many years ago the Y. M. C. A. adopted the Red Triangle as its emblem. The three sides of the triangle are symbolic of the

three-sided development of the strong man—the physical, the intellectual and the spiritual; in other words, symbolic of the influence of the best American homes.



An Ohio Town Interprets The Meaning of Hospitality

THE Camp Sherman Community House at Chillicothe, Ohio, would be too expensive for most of its guests if it were operated for profit and at a place where it does not present such a contrast to its surroundings, say, off the Boardwalk at Atlantic City. Hotels similarly equipped, and with such elaborate resources for entertaining their patrons, can usually be patronized only by persons of considerable means. Folks who spend only 75 cents a day for a room and less than that for a dinner are not customarily entertained by an orchestra during meals, and by concerts and dances nightly—at any rate, not gratis, with the 75.

The guests of the Camp Sherman community, as of any camp community, are selected. The government selected them when it went into every home in the country and called into the same camp and company men who never before had been associated with each other or each other's kind.

For this reason the camp community house has an atmosphere which is unique. It is dignified enough to make the most absent-minded visitor unconsciously throw back his shoulders and straighten his spine before he is twenty paces within. But it is not "stiff or cold." It is homelike and warm. There is a place for every soldier and his friends and relatives, whether they come from a fashionable residential district of a large city or from a cabin in a gully back in the Ohio mountains.

Could the guests of a year pass in review upon these pages the spectacle would be amazing. They would be wearing all manner of garments, made in all manner of ways, and in manifold places and times. They would be carrying all sizes of pocket-books. There would be D. D's, Ph. D's, LL. D's, high school freshmen, and folks who six months previously had never heard there was a war in Europe. There would be simple country folk, prosperous Ford-owning farmers, presidents of banks in towns of less than a thousand population, persons whose names appear on the social registers of the largest cities, and millionaire manufacturers. There would be com-

missioned and non-commissioned officers from the armies and navies of America and of her allies. There would be privates and seamen. There would be preachers, maons, postmasters, insurance agents, baggage-men, ticket sellers, cooks, policemen and stock raisers. There would be former presidents of the United States, blacksmiths, bartenders and writers of best sellers. There would be fathers and mothers, come to bid a last farewell to an only son about to depart on the Great Adventure. And there would be, by actual observation, a little yellow dog in the arms of a golden-haired sister exuberantly wagging its tail in the presence of its master, lately evolved into a heroic suit of khaki.

Such are the visitors who follow America's defenders to any camp town. Timidity and transportation cost may keep some of them away, but never all of them.

It is no uncommon thing to see an officer in high command at Camp Sherman dancing alongside a private who has been recruited into the service within a fortnight. This intimacy of contact is notable in the restaurant, in the smoking room, at the corners, in the library and beside the fireplaces.

This democratic contact between officers and men is only a part of General Glantz's scheme of inspiring discipline in his ranks by teaching the respect rather than the fear of authority.

A Change in Community Life

When the representatives of War Camp Community Service first arrived in Any Camp Town the commercial amusement house was usually the chief place of entertainment open to the enlisted man. Before the camp came the average citizen patronized these amusements only occasionally. He found his recreation in attending lodge meetings, church socials, neighborhood parties and family gatherings. He had given much thought to the question of entertaining the transient—the person who could not at once become a part of the social life of his town. He had thought of the problem in the large perhaps once in his life—as a member of the entertainment committee of a Labor Day celebration—when, over his printed name, he had committed the community to sixteen hours of unrestrained hospitality to any and all out-of-town guests who would succumb to the lure of his alliterative appeal. He remembered with anxiety how the ingenuity of the community had been taxed to provide entertainment enough to keep four hundred people amused from the time the 8:30 arrived in the morning until the 11:56 pulled out at night. For the other 360-odd days of the year the average citizen had left the transient to the mercy of the commercial amusement manager.

When the government revealed its plan to establish military and naval training stations throughout the country there was a hurried influx into many camp towns of cheap and vulgar amusements. The problem of providing recreation to 20,000 or more transient visitors was larger than most towns were able to solve alone. They had neither the powers to control undesirable attractions nor facilities to provide adequate entertainment. A street corner which came to one Southern camp town featured gambling devices, a hooch-knock show, a "peep" tent, and a coarse imitation of Barbary Coast dances. This particular aggregation was practically a transient group of prostitutes and traffickers in prostitution, parading as professional entertainers.

When War Camp Community Service went into the camp towns these attractions left. For them were substituted athletic events of all sorts, diversified entertainments, pageants, festivals, parties, dances, automobile rides, sightseeing excursions, picnics, concerts and wholesome commercial amusements at reduced prices.

America's outdoor sports require an abundance of space and air. Given these, the average American-reared man can amuse himself at baseball, football, basketball, tennis and their kindred outdoor energy.

America Has Not Forgotten Her Men Are Human Beings First

By Joseph Hergesheimer

IT USED to be that there was only one class of men who had a worse reputation than soldiers, and they were sailors. Everything that went with professional fighting—idleness, scarlet trousers and brass buttons and marching bands of music—made the soldier a public nuisance. The sailor was more of a specialist in his trouble-making; they are almost invariably better-looking men than landlubbers, but they yet contrived to make the nights hideous with their songs and disrupt all feminine tranquillity.

Now, however, nearly everything is changed; the scarlet and brass buttons have given place to sombre olive drab and there is little leisure in the present business of being a soldier. The sailors, who once rolled on melodious waves of strong waters through the ports of the world, now go about in orderly bands buying informative picture postcards.

Organization Is Fitted for This Task

This is very heartening. The improvement, too, goes far below the surface; the men are different—or such, at least, is the report—and the reason for America's warfare has a justice beyond all mere former conquest or aggression. Its single purpose holds the aspirations of an entire earth sick of brutal oppression

and hereditary tyranny; and it is undoubtedly that clear principle which gives our forces their sparkling and yet austere bearing.

It is all better, the soldiers, the sailors and the war; and the civilian population, democracy, is enormously improved. The ignorant and selfish attitude of old days, the cold preying on simple men, cynical vice, have been in part or wholly banished by a nation determined, with such a cause and such splendid troops, to see that the "boys" had every reason to believe that their supreme service was understood and supported to the last dollar and breath of patriotism.

Enlisting All Resources in Fight

In this engagement every resource of knowledge and fine feeling has been enlisted, and every complicating need of our armies, at home and overseas, has the undivided attention of an organization peculiarly fitted or specially formed for that object. These necessary activities were all outside the possible attention of the military boards and governmental duties, and in recognition of their essential character Washington delegated the responsibility for the contributing welfare, the morale, of the American expeditionary force to seven principal bodies—the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Catholic War Council, including the Knights of Columbus; the Salvation Army, the Jewish Welfare Board, the War Camp Community Service and the American Library Association.

Each of these organizations has a distinct field and usefulness of its own; each proceeds from its own source of faith; but they are synchronized by a common hope and reason—the American soldier and his allies. It was therefore natural that in a campaign to secure the money necessary for their current expenses they should merge into one compact body and effort.

Treat Fighters as Real Human Beings

Perhaps the greatest advance in the support given the army and navy came from the realization that soldiers and sailors were first men and then drilled fighters, and that in order to assure the success of the latter they must be sustained as human beings. The Y. M. C. A. grasped this at once, with the result that there appeared everywhere through the cantonnements, ports and bases large halls for writing and recreation, organized professional entertainments and games and contests of skill. It followed the men in troop trains and transports, in Great Britain and France, at rest billets, leave areas and under fire; it continued overseas its programme of recreation and added canteens where, at quartermaster's prices, chocolate and tobacco and countless other little necessities and comforts could be had.

In the greater part of this the Y. M. C. A. was supplemented by the Jewish Welfare Board and the Knights of Columbus, both with special facilities in the assistance of the members of their faiths, while the War Camp Community Service, concentrating its energies in the

United States, provided for the masses of men suddenly gathered about towns and cities with no accommodations for such huge invasion. Clubs were organized for officers and men, good, reasonably priced food was made possible, information booths established, entertainments conducted, invitations secured for dinner with private families, and dancing—not only the time and the place, but the pretty girl.

Many Women Are in This Service

The force of the Salvation Army, however, was directed overseas, and the strength of its organization there drawn from the fact that 85 per cent of its ranks are women. The Y. M. C. A. included the widest educational facilities imaginable, elementary and university courses and technical instruction, both for military purposes and as preparation for after the war; but the Salvation Army—never was necessity more of a virtue in the minds of the "boys"—contents itself with doughnuts and oranges, the sewing on of a button and the warm handclasp of a feminine sympathy, a memento of home, carried into the front line zones of German shellfire and bombing.

Entertaining Soldiers on the Transports

The Young Women's Christian Association, as well, devoted itself through women, but largely to women. It, too, went overseas in the establishment of rest and recreation houses for the nurses attached to the Allied hospitals and forwarding stations; but the great work of the Y. W. C. A. lay in the provisions it made, first, in hostess houses throughout the cantonnements and bases in America for the visiting families of soldiers, sailors and marines, and, second, in its care of the multitude of women workers drawn into the vortex of the war.

The Y. W. C. A. supported clubhouses for permanent workers and houses for transients; it had in connection with these country places for change and relaxation, and maintained lunch counters at the great munition plants. The American Library Association, operating through central distribution points in the larger cantonnements, and in compact, movable collections of books on special subjects, supplying military and naval hospitals, availed itself as well of the facilities of all the other organizations for establishing libraries on the transports and throughout the Allied armies in Europe.

Justifies Hopes For Future Good

Even a brief statement of activities spread over practically all the needs of normal men must give an intimation of the new horizons of responsibility and service opened by the great war. In merging even for a brief space Catholics and Jews and Protestants, obliterating old inhibitions and dogma, the United War Service of America has justified a hope for a future built on a democracy of humanity. That depends upon just such things as these, and they depend not on governments, not on laws nor princes nor presidents, but upon you.

"I'll Get Twenty-five Million Dollars" Just Like That



From left to right: Dr. John R. Mott, director general United War Work Campaign; Commander Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army; John D. Rockefeller, jr., of the New York War Work Campaign; Mortimer Schiff, of the Jewish Welfare Board, and Douglas Fairbanks

THIS photograph shows the group of United War Work officials just after exacting a pledge from Douglas Fairbanks to raise \$25,000,000 of the big fund. Mr.

Rockefeller, Dr. Mott, Mr. Schiff and Commander Evangeline Booth met the athletic movie star at the national headquarters of the organization, at 60 Vanderbilt Ave-

nue discussed the possibilities of money getting in the present cause and concluded their activities by posing before the camera and movie man.